

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

U.S. Department Of Commerce
International Trade Administration
and

European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry

Concerning Cooperation on
Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

The International Trade Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, and the European Commission Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry,

Recognizing the close trade and economic relationship between the United States and the European Union;

Reaffirming the importance of cooperation to the development of commercial relations between them;

Emphasizing the significant role that Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) play in driving national economic prosperity and international trade

Recalling the decision at the December 2010 meeting of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) to collaborate on ways to increase trade and investment opportunities for US and EU SMEs;

Recalling the Letter of Intent of May 2012 on cooperation in support of the activities of US and EU SMEs, and the call by TEC Principals at their November 2011 meeting to develop the present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);

Intending the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding to be carried out on the basis of equality and mutual benefit;

Express their intention to cooperate on an SME collaborative initiative to facilitate the exchange of information about SMEs; provide for SME networking opportunities; and promote international trade and business cooperation between U.S. and European SMEs, as set forth in this MOU.

Article 1: Participants

The Participants of this MOU are as follows:

- The **International Trade Administration (ITA)** of the United States Department of Commerce, whose mission is to “foster, promote, and develop the foreign and domestic commerce...of the United States” (15 U.S.C. §1512), and to fulfill its mission, works to improve the global business environment and help U.S. organizations, especially SMEs, compete at home and abroad, as well as promote U.S. exports to sustain economic growth and support American jobs,
- The **Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry** of the European Commission, whose mission is to strengthen Europe's industrial base and promote the transition to a low carbon economy; to ensure an open internal market for

goods; to promote innovation as a means to generate new sources of growth and meet societal needs; and to encourage the creation and growth of SMEs and promote an entrepreneurial culture.

Article 2: Aim of Cooperative Activities

1. The Participants aim to cooperate in several different areas involving SMEs in relation to the following possible activities involving the ITA's U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, the trade promotion arm of ITA with a global network of trade professionals in over 75 countries, and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), a worldwide network of 600 business and innovation support organizations managed by DG Enterprise and Industry:

- Exchange of information on events and other joint networking opportunities for SMEs;
- Identifying respective contact points and services on EEN and ITA websites;
- Cooperation on specific SME events and promotion of relevant business partnering activities;
- Participation of ITA and EEN representatives at priority sectoral or thematic seminars or other events organized by the Participants where appropriate;
- Establishment of a Working Group to coordinate these activities, as described in Article 3 below; and
- Dissemination of relevant information generated by other U.S.-EU working groups, including those under the Transatlantic Economic Council work program.

2. The Participants also intend to share relevant information and best practices on innovation, entrepreneurship, and to promote the preparation of cooperative projects and business cooperation relating to SMEs. Additionally, in a manner consistent with each Participant's internal policies, the Participants may include links to each other's websites.

Article 3: Working Group

It is intended that the Participants would appoint a number of representatives to a Working Group which would be responsible for coordinating matters relating to this MOU. It is intended that the Working Group would consult on a regular basis to work out the practical details to facilitate cooperation between the Participants.

Article 4: Effect

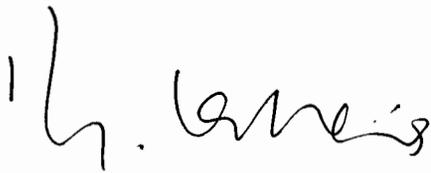
This MOU is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Participants and is not intended to create any legal obligations under domestic or international law between them or their countries or institutions and does not constitute an international agreement. No provision of this MOU is to be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or binding commitments for the Participants.

Article 5: Final Provisions

1. Each Participant undertakes to bear its own costs and expenditures that might be incurred in the course of implementing this MOU. The activities of the Participants undertaken pursuant to this MOU are contingent on the availability of funds and other resources, and subject to the laws, regulations and internal policies that govern each of them. All acknowledge that the cooperation anticipated under this MOU is to be on a non-exclusive basis.
2. Each Participant is expected, to the extent permitted by its governing laws, to protect from disclosure business confidential information provided by SMEs.
3. This MOU becomes effective on the day of its signing by each Participant. Activities under this MOU are intended to continue until 31 December 2014, at which time activities may continue upon the written consent of the Participants.
4. Each Participant may discontinue its participation under the MOU at any time, but should provide the other Participant at least three months advance notification in writing.

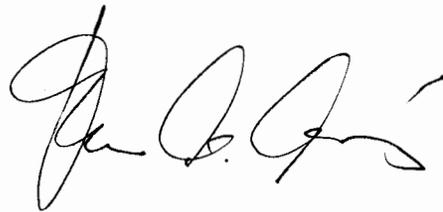
This MOU has been signed in duplicate, in the English language, on this 3rd day of December 2012.

For the Directorate-General for
Enterprise and Industry of the
European Commission



Daniel Calleja Crespo
Director-General

For the United States Department of
Commerce, International Trade
Administration



Michael Camuñez,
Assistant Secretary
for Market Access and Compliance